



## California Department of Fish and Game Deer Management Program 2005 Deer Zone Information

Wildlife Programs Branch  
1812 9th Street Sacramento, CA 95814

---

### San Joaquin Valley and Southern Sierra Region

#### General Deer Hunting Information For

### **ZONE D-6**

(Includes Additional Hunts G-37, J-15 and A-21)

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION FOR DEER HUNT ZONE**

This information sheet has been prepared to assist deer hunters applying for, or planning to hunt in, Zone D-6 located in portions of Alpine, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Stanislaus and Tuolumne counties. The following information should be useful to hunters for archery and general seasons as well as any "additional hunts" within this geographic area. For more specific information or additional questions regarding this area, contact the San Joaquin Valley and Southern Sierra Region Office, 1234 E. Shaw Avenue, Fresno, CA 93710 (559-243-4005).

#### **REGULATIONS**

Laws and regulations are designed to conserve wildlife and to provide for an equitable distribution of game mammals. The hunter who knows the laws and regulations can enjoy the hunting experience more. All hunters should read and be familiar with the current hunting regulations available online at:

<http://www.fgc.ca.gov/html/regs.html>

The 2005 deer hunting regulations specific for Zone D-6 (archery and general season) and any additional hunts are listed at the end of this sheet. To hunt deer Zone D-6, hunters must possess a Zone D-6 deer tag. This tag is valid during the archery or general season using the appropriate method of take.

Additionally, Archery Only #1 Tags (AO#1) and Archery Only #2 Tags (AO#2) are valid during the Zone D-6 archery or general season using archery equipment only.

Any additional deer hunts in Zone D-6 are listed in the Additional Deer Hunts section, below. Typically, tags for additional deer hunts are in high demand and distributed through the Department's Big Game Drawing held in June. To receive tags for many of these hunts, hunters must plan ahead and are encouraged to submit deer tag applications by late May. For information regarding deer tag application procedures and obtaining a deer tag for this area, see the Big Game Hunting Booklet, available on-line at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/biggame/biggamebook.html>

Successful hunters are reminded to immediately fill out both portions of the tag and permanently mark the date of kill; attach the tag to the antlers, or ear if antlerless; have the tag validated and countersigned; and return the completed report card portion to the Department within 30 days of taking a deer.

#### **LAND OWNERSHIP/PUBLIC LAND OPPORTUNITIES**

Zone D-6 contains a mixture of both public and private lands. Remember you must obtain and have in your possession written permission to hunt on private property. Hunter trespass laws are strictly enforced. Public lands within Zone D-6 are administered by the Sierra and Stanislaus National Forests (USFS), and

the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). For information regarding these lands contact the following:

**USFS Offices:**

Sierra National Forest, 1600 Tollhouse Road, Clovis Ca 93611 (559-297-0706)  
Stanislaus National Forest, 19777 Greenley Rd., Sonora, CA 95370 (209-532-3671)

**BLM Offices:**

Folsom Field Office, 63 Natoma Street, Folsom, CA 95630 (916-985-4474)

Wilderness lands have been established within two portions of the Stanislaus National Forests. The Carson-Iceberg Wilderness lies north of Highway 108 and the Emigrant Wilderness is south of the Highway 108 corridor. These wilderness areas are accessible by hiking and by pack stock. Public use of the wilderness is regulated by permit. Wilderness Permits may be obtained by contacting the Stanislaus National Forest, Summit Ranger District office at: #1 Pinecrest Lake Road; Pinecrest, CA 95364 (209-965-3434).

Sierra Pacific Industries also owns large blocks of land within the Stanislaus National Forest. Some of this land is behind locked gates and some is not. This lumber company does allow public hunting on their property. Please remember you are their guest, carry out all refuse, be fire safe and respect their property.

In Zone D-6 and other zones throughout California, additional deer hunting opportunities may exist on private property licensed through the Department's Private Lands Management Program (PLM). For more information on the PLM and to obtain a list of participating ranches, go to the following link:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/plm.html>

**Reminder:** Lands within Yosemite National Park and State Game Refuge 1-R are closed to hunting. Hunters should be aware of State Game Refuge 1-R, located between the North and Middle Forks of the Stanislaus River. This area is well-defined on the Stanislaus National Forest map and is also well posted. Please note that there are travel restrictions through the Game Refuge for hunters transporting hunting weapons (See Fish and Game Code Section 10506).

**MAPS**

For general maps detailing individual zone or additional deer hunt boundaries, go to the following link:

[http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/deer\\_maps.html](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/deer_maps.html)

The most comprehensive maps of the area are the National Forest maps. USFS maps are available at all USFS offices or you can contact the USFS Pacific Southwest Regional Office at: 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA 94592 (707-562-8737).

BLM surface management maps may also be useful. You can purchase these maps at BLM district offices or you can contact the BLM at 2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-1834, Sacramento, CA 95825 (916-978-4400).

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps, are very helpful, especially for topographic features that are not displayed on USFS or BLM maps. USGS maps may be available from sporting goods, backpacking or engineering stores or you can contact the USGS directly at: Rocky Mountain Mapping Center, Branch of Information Services, Box 25286, Denver, CO 80225 (888-ASK-USGS).

**ACCESS/MAJOR ROADS**

Access to most public lands within Zone D-6 is very good. Major access routes are along Highways 4, 108, 120 and 140. On opening weekend, most of the areas accessed by roads are popular with hunters and it is difficult to find solitude, due to the concentration of hunters near these access roads. However, hunting pressure drops off significantly until storms occur, usually in mid to late-October.

### **WEATHER CONDITIONS/TRAVEL TIPS**

The weather in this region is highly variable so BE PREPARED. Early in the season, temperatures are usually mild to hot with cold nights. Snow can occur anytime during the deer season, especially at higher elevations, and hunters should always be prepared for this possibility with appropriate clothing and equipment for a variety of weather conditions.

Zone D-6 covers a large geographic area. The terrain can be very steep and rugged and vegetation can be extremely dense. As you should do in all remote areas, hunters are urged to bring a shovel, a good spare tire, extra water, etc. Use care with any off-road vehicle and check with the BLM or USFS for rules and regulations regarding vehicle and travel restrictions in the area. Horses can be useful in some portions of Zone D-6. However, remember that it may be necessary to carry supplemental horse feed into the back country. Contact the local USFS and/or BLM office for more information regarding forage conditions for livestock.

### **CAMPING**

There are numerous Forest Service campgrounds within Zone D-6. The developed campsites are shown on the Forest Service maps. Informal camping is allowed on Forest Service lands, but campfires permits are required. Permits may be obtained from any USFS, BLM, or California Department of Forestry (CDF) office. During fire season, special regulations may apply, and it is always best to contact the local USFS, BLM, or CDF office for the latest information.

Please, DO NOT camp or hunt for prolonged periods near water sources important to wildlife and livestock. Remaining for over 30 minutes and within 200 yards of an artificial water source including guzzlers or horizontal wells on public lands within California is a Fish and Game violation (Title 14, Section 730). You can pack water, wildlife can't.

### **HARVEST INFORMATION**

Information on deer harvest for this area is available in tables contained in the annual Deer Kill Reports available on-line at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/deerhunt.html> The most useful tables for the purposes of planning or applying for hunts in this area are Tables 1b (Harvest and Success Information), 2a (Antler Class Information) and 10b (Drawing Statistics).

### **HERD CONDITIONS AND HABITATS**

The deer population in Zone D-6 is considered to be stable to increasing, although populations are still considerably below those seen in the late 1960's and 1970's. As with most deer herds in California and other western states, the long-term population trend has been on a steady decline since the 1960's and 1970's. These long-term declines have been due to land management practices that have precluded fire, resulting in changes toward more mature and less diverse habitats, and reduced quality and quantity of deer habitats. Short-term fluctuations in deer populations are usually attributed to weather events that affect forage production.

Overall, fawn survival in Zone D-6 has been good for the past several years and it is expected a fair number of legal younger bucks will be entering the population in the next several years. Herd composition counts in Zone D-6 indicate that the overall buck-to-doe ratio was 44 bucks for every 100 does observed with a sample size of 476 in the fall of 2000. During these counts the number of bucks per 100 does ranged from a low of 39 bucks per 100 does in the Stanislaus herd to a high of 50 bucks per 100 does in the Yosemite herd.

The subspecies of deer inhabiting Zone D-6 is the California mule deer. The deer that occupy the higher elevations of Zone D-6 are migratory. They reside on their summer ranges until they are stimulated to migrate down slope to their wintering habitats. Habitat quality and quantity, temperature, day length and weather conditions all play a part in determining when these deer will complete their fall migrations. Generally, from mid-October, or later, any significant winter storm has the potential to cause some migratory deer to move from summer range to lower elevations. Deer are capable of sensing significant impending storms. They frequently migrate just prior to those storms, perhaps due to substantial changes in atmospheric pressure. If storms are mild, some deer may delay in intermediate range, seeking acorns

and other available fall forage. If severe, a single storm may result in the migration of a large percentage of the animals from the higher elevations, down slope to winter range habitat. Most of the areas considered summer range, particularly those areas between 5,000 and 8,000 feet, are also good areas to hunt during early migrations. When these deer migrate, they frequently follow ridge tops and stream corridors. When driving along forest roads, look for freshly-made trailing off cut banks, adjacent to the roads.

The vegetation is highly varied throughout Zone D-6 ranging from oak-woodland, mixed and montane chaparral, hardwood, hardwood-conifer, aspen and dense conifer to alpine habitats. Generally speaking, deer populations in this area respond favorably to vegetation disturbances that enhance brush species (wildfire and timber harvesting). Riparian areas (areas along watercourses), recently burned areas or clear cuts that have re-sprouted with brush are good areas to hunt. Areas where oaks are producing acorns may also attract deer. Typically, lower densities of deer are observed in the more densely forested areas or in older, more decadent brushlands.

### **HUNTING TIPS AND WHERE TO LOOK FOR DEER**

Successful hunters often spend a considerable amount of time scouting pre-season, locating individual or groups of deer, recently used deer trails, and feeding and bedding areas. You may not see many deer from the roads in this area and generally the more successful hunters do more hiking to locate deer. Binoculars and/or spotting scopes can be very helpful for locating and identifying deer at greater distances. In general, attempt to hunt areas that are away from other activities such as concentrations of hunters, vehicles, and/or livestock.

Start looking in areas which have been burned in the last five to ten years or where the oak acorns are mature and abundant. Although meadows provide good forage for deer, especially does and fawns, bucks should utilize areas with better cover during hunting season: rougher terrain (ridges, etc.), denser vegetation, etc. After heavy snow storms, deer will rapidly move toward the winter range or hold in transitional areas. Look in areas with shrubs or preferred browse plants at intermediate elevations.

No one location is guaranteed to have deer on any given date, however the following areas have historically been some of the more popular and productive areas to hunt:

### **SUMMER RANGE**

Summer range habitat for the migrant herds may be found anywhere from 5,000 feet to the Sierra Crest within Zone D-6.

**Alpine County area** (most locations are within the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness): Arnot Creek; Iceberg, Airola and Disaster Peaks; Paradise Valley; Clark Ford drainage; the Dardanelles Basin, including the Dardanelles and Dardanelles Cone; Jenkins, Hiram and Champion Canyons; Fence and Drew Creek areas; and Stanislaus and Sonora Peaks.

**Tuolumne County** (areas within the Emigrant Wilderness): Kennedy Lake; Grouse Canyon; Grizzly Meadow and other areas adjacent to the Sierra Crest; willow runs and huckleberry oak brushfields associated with most high mountain peaks; Buck and Emigrant Lakes; Whitesides, Horse and Spring Meadows; Louse Canyon; Brown Bear Pass; and Lunch and Cooper Meadows.

**Tuolumne County** (areas outside the Emigrant Wilderness): Red, Bald and Night Cap Peaks; Clark Fork Meadow; meadow complexes from Niagara Creek to Silver Mine Creek; Eagle Peak; Big and Little Rattlesnake Creeks; Liberty Hill; Peyton Saddle; Bummers Flat; Wheats Meadow; Herring Creek; Hammil Canyon; Pinecrest Peak; Niagara, Mill, Cascade, and Lily Creeks; Fraser Flat; the Strawberry Fuelbreak; Bourland, Fahey and Bell Meadows; Dodge Ridge; Crabtree Camp; Mud Lake; Wrights Creek Burn (near Long Barn); Granite Creek Burn (near Cherry Lake); Camp Clavey; Wolfin Meadow; Big and Little Reynolds Creeks; Jawbone Pass; Hells Mountain; and Crocker Ridge.

**Mariposa County:** Hazel Green Ranch; Twin Bridges; Buena Vista; Little Nellie Falls; and Iron and Chowchilla Mountains.

## **INTERMEDIATE RANGE**

Deer usually move into and through the intermediate range with the advent of October storms. Intermediate range areas are generally between 4,000 and 5,500 feet. Frequently, areas within intermediate range have all the habitat components (food, water and cover) necessary to provide summer habitat for some deer, while acting as transitional range for numerous other animals. Many of the areas previously listed as summer range, such as Peyton Saddle and Bummers Flat (near Refuge 1-R), Wrights Creek Burn (near Long Barn), Granite Creek Burn (near Cherry Lake), Crocker Ridge and Buena Vista (near Yosemite National Park), and Chowchilla and Iron Mountain (near Mariposa) are examples of intermediate range.

## **WINTER RANGE**

Within Zone D-6, areas between 2,000 feet and 4,300 feet frequently are utilized as winter range for migrant deer. Typically, wintering habitat is characterized by warm southern openings (including lava cap areas), stands of mature oak, stands of brush (particularly areas vegetated with different age classes and species of brush), stands of large conifers (to escape from storms and cold wind), and available water. In general the more diverse the habitat composition, the better the winter range.

**Tuolumne County:** Schoettgen Pass; Ruby Fire area; Mount Knight; Grant Ridge; Bald, Marble, and Duckwall Mountains; Walton Cabin Springs; Paper Cabin Ridge; Jawbone Ridge; Plum Flat; Woods Ridge; North Mountain; Middle Fork; Drew Meadow; Gravel Range; Sawmill Mountain; Spinning Wheel area; Packard Canyon; Big Creek Basin and Pilot Ridge.

**Mariposa County:** Moss Canyon; Anderson Flat; Soapstone Ridge; Scott Ridge; Wagner Valley; Devil Gulch; Ferguson Ridge; Footman Ridge and Sweetwater Ridge.

For additional information about deer hunting in California, see the Department's publication "Guide To Hunting Deer In California" at the following web site:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/deerguide.pdf>

## **ADDITIONAL DEER HUNTS**

In 2005, there are three additional hunt opportunities within Zone D-6: 1) G-37 (Anderson Flat Buck Hunt); 2) J-15 (Anderson Flat Junior Buck Hunt); and 3) A-21 (Anderson Flat Archery Buck Hunt). For general maps detailing the individual hunt area boundaries, go to the following link:

[http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/deer\\_maps.html](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/deer_maps.html)

## **2005 ZONE AND ADDITIONAL HUNT SPECIFIC REGULATIONS**

### **§ 360. Deer.**

Except as otherwise provided in this Title 14, deer may be taken only as follows:

(a) A, B, C, and D Zone Hunts.

(5) Zone D-6.

(A) Area: In those portions of Alpine, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Stanislaus and Tuolumne counties within a line beginning at the intersection of Highway 99 and the Stanislaus River at Ripon; east along the Stanislaus River and following the North Fork of the Stanislaus River to Highland Creek; east up Highland Creek to the road connecting Lower and Upper Highland Lakes at Upper Highland Lake; east along that road to the township line between Townships 7 and 8 North; east on that township line to the Sierra crest near Wolf Creek Pass; south along the Sierra crest to the Yosemite National Park boundary near Rodger Peak; along the eastern Yosemite National Park boundary to Highway 41; south along Highway 41 to the Madera-Mariposa county line south of Westfall Station; along the Madera-Mariposa and the Madera-Merced county lines to Highway 99; north along Highway 99 to the point of beginning.

(B) Season: The season in Zone D-6 shall open on the third Saturday in September and extend for 44 consecutive days.

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (See subsection 351(a)) or better, per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: 10,000.

(c) Additional Hunts.

(13) G-37 (Anderson Flat Buck Hunt).

(A) Area: In that portion of hunt Zone D-6 in Mariposa and Tuolumne counties lying within a line beginning at the intersection of Highway 140 and Bull Creek Road at Briceburg; north on Bull Creek Road (U.S. Forest Service Road 2S05) to Greeley Hill Road; west on Greeley Hill Road to Smith Station Road (County Route J20); north on Smith Station Road to Highway 120 (near Burch Meadow); east on Highway 120 to the Yosemite National Park Boundary (near Big Oak-Flat Ranger Station); southeast along the Yosemite National Park Boundary to Highway 140; west on Highway 140 to the Yosemite National Park

Boundary; northwest along the Yosemite National Park Boundary to Highway 140 (at Redbud Campground); west on Highway 140 to the point of beginning.

(B) Season: The season for additional hunt G-37 (Anderson Flat Buck Hunt) shall open on the fourth Saturday in November and extend for nine consecutive days.

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (see subsection 351(a)) or better, per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: 25.

(37) J-15 (Anderson Flat Junior Buck Hunt).

(A) Area: In that portion of Zone D-6 in Mariposa and Tuolumne counties lying within a line beginning at the intersection of Highway 140 and Bull Creek Road at Briceburg; north on Bull Creek Road (U.S. Forest Service Road 2S05) to Greeley Hill Road; west on Greeley Hill Road to Smith Station Road (County Route J20); north on Smith Station Road to Highway 120 (near Burch Meadow); east on Highway 120 to the Yosemite National Park Boundary (near Big Oak-Flat Ranger Station); southeast along the Yosemite National Park Boundary to Highway 140; west on Highway 140 to the Yosemite National Park Boundary; northwest along the Yosemite National Park Boundary to Highway 140 (at Redbud Campground); west on Highway 140 to the point of beginning.

(B) Season: The season for additional hunt J-15 (Anderson Flat Junior Buck Hunt) shall open on the fourth Saturday in November and extend for nine consecutive days.

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (see subsection 351(a)) or better, per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: 10.

(E) Special Conditions:

1. Only junior license holders shall apply (see subsection 708(a)(2)).

2. Tagholders shall be accompanied by an adult chaperon 18 years of age or older while hunting.

(44) Conditions for Special Hunts.

(A) When hunting on military reservations or private lands, hunters shall have in their possession a written permit signed by the landowner, which may specify where and when the permittee may hunt.

(B) When required, tagholders shall check in and check out of designated check stations.

#### **§ 361. Archery Deer Hunting.**

(a) Archery Hunting With General Deer Zone Tags. Deer may be taken during the archery season only with archery equipment specified in Section 354 as follows:

(4) D Zones.

(B) Zones D-6 through D-10.

1. Area: As described in subsection 360(a)(5)(A) through (9)(A).

2. Season: The archery season in zones D-6 through D-10 shall open on the third Saturday in August and extend for 23 days.

3. Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (see subsection 351(a)) or better per tag.

(b) Archery Hunting With Area-specific Archery Tags. Deer may be taken only with archery equipment specified in Section 354, only during the archery seasons as follows:

(19) A-21 (Anderson Flat Archery Buck Hunt).

(A) Area: In that portion of hunt Zone D-6 in Mariposa and Tuolumne counties lying within a line beginning at the intersection of Highway 140 and Bull Creek Road at Briceburg; north on Bull Creek Road (U.S. Forest Service Road 2S05) to Greeley Hill Road; west on Greeley Hill Road to Smith Station Road (County Route J20); north on Smith Station Road to Highway 120 (near Burch Meadow); east on Highway 120 to the Yosemite National Park Boundary (near Big Oak-Flat Ranger Station); southeast along the Yosemite National Park Boundary to Highway 140; west on Highway 140 to the Yosemite National Park Boundary; northwest along the Yosemite National Park Boundary to Highway 140 (at Redbud Campground); west on Highway 140 to the point of beginning.

(B) Season: The season for hunt A-21 (Anderson Flat Archery Buck Hunt) shall open on the second Saturday in November and extend for 14 consecutive days.

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (see subsection 351(a)) or better, per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: 25.

(c) Archery Hunting with Archery Only Tags. Deer may be taken only with archery equipment specified in Section 354, during the archery seasons and general seasons as follows:

(1) Number of Archery Only Tags Permitted. A person may obtain an archery only tag using a one-deer tag application and a second archery only tag using a second deer tag application.

(2) Zones in Which Archery Only Tags are Valid. An archery only tag is valid for hunt G-10, and during the archery season and general season in all zones except C-1 through C-4 and X-1 through X-12.

(3) Areas: As described in subsections 360(a) and (c).

(4) Seasons: The archery season and general seasons are provided in subsection 361(a) above and in subsections 360(a) and (c).

(5) Bag and Possession Limit: All bag and possession limits per zone are the same as those described in subsections 360(a) and (c).

(d) Hunting Area Limitations. Archers not in possession of an archery only tag may hunt only in the zone, zones, or areas for which they have a general tag or an area-specific archery tag. (Refer to subsection 361(c)(2) for zones in which archery only tags are valid).

(e) Crossbow Prohibition. Except as provided in subsection 354(j), crossbows may not be used during any archery season or during the general season when using an archery only tag.

\*\*\*\* GOOD LUCK! \*\*\*\*